AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of wells so far drilled in the Krishna-Godavari basin, what are their details alongwith the output; and

(b) which industries have been committed the use of gas reserves in the above region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) ONGC have so far drilled 87 wells in Krishna-Godavari basin (onshore and offshore). Out of these, hydrocarbons have been discovered in ten prospects onland and 4 prospects offshore. The time and labour involved in collection of information relating to individual wells, may not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved.

(b) The gas resources are being utilised for various industrial uses. Commitment of gas for a power plant of APSEB has been made; a commitment in principle has also been made for a fertilizer plant at Kakinada.

Proposal for a separate gas grid in Krishna—Godavari basin

2032. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to form a separate gas grid in view of the abundant gas reserves in Krishna-Godavari basin of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) A pipeline from Narasapur to Kovvur has been constructed for supplying gas to various consumers. There is no proposal for construction of a gas grid as such; additional pipelines would be laid as and when required.

Refinery by HPCL at Hazira

2033. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for setting up of a refinery by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited at Hazira has since been cleared; if not, what are the reasons therefor and whether the propsal will be incorporated in the Eighth Plan Period;

(b) what will be the refining capacity and the estimated cost and the type of crude oil to be processed in the proposed refinery; and

(c) what were the considerations for selecting Hazira as the location for the new refinery and whether feasibility reports were made available for locating the refinery on Saurashtra coast: if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) A provision of Rs. 50 Lakhs has been included in the 1989-90 Annual Plan of HPCL for Feasibility Studies for additional curde refining capacity in Hazira area. Additional refining capacity required is considered on various techno-ecomomic factors including the demand supply balance of the area to be served, avilability of the curde oil etc. and special studies in this regard.

Setting up offshore supply vessels by ONGC

2034. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC has decided to sell its 31 offshore supply vessels (OSVS) to private firms; if so, what are the reasons thereof;

(b) whether these vessels were purchased by ONGC only a few years ago and before inviting tender [illegible] whether Government's appr[illegible] taken ; and

(c) if so, what were the offers vis-a-vis expected selling price of the vessels and what was the initial cost of these vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) In order to shed low and medium technological areas and to concentrate on their main line of business, ONGC have a proposal to divest their fleet of offshore supply vessels acquired by them a few years back, partly by sale and partly by forming a joint venture company with Shipping Corporation of India for managing/ operation of these vessels. No final decision has been taken so far.

Findings of the enquiry committee with regard to blow-out at SEDCO-252 jack-up rig in Daman Offshore

2035. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level enquiry instituted on a blow-out at SEDCO-252 Jack-up Rig in Daman off-shore has been completed; if so, what are its findings;

(b) what is the level of enquiry and whether the recommendations of the enquiry committee will be made public;

(c) what is the estimated loss in terms of men, money and material and whether adequate safety measure were taken to prevent the tragedy;

(d) whether ONGC employees have ever represented to ONGC authorities regarding inadequate safety measures, if so, what action has been taken; and

(e) whether any organisation has brought out inadequacies of safety devices in offshore drilling, if so, what are the details thereof and action taken thereon?

[illegible] OF STATE OF THE MINI[illegible] ETROLEUM AND [illegible] HRI BRAHM [illegible] ONGC have [illegible]ited a h[illegible] [illegible]uiry headed by [illegible]ombay [illegible] [illegible]uire into the cause that led to the blow-out incident at the charter-hired jack-up rig SEDCO-FOREX and to make recommendation[illegible] [illegible]ncdial measures to prevent such [illegible]s in future. The enquiry is in p[illegible]

(c) Three person[illegible] their lives. The tentative cost [illegible] material lost including third party materials in the mishap at the rig would be approximately US $ 2 million and the cost of re-drilling would be approximately US$ 0.8 million.

ONGC is protected by its insurance policies for the loss of ONGC/third party equipments on the rig and also for the cost of re-drilling the well to the same depth.

(d)

(e) ONGC's Safety and Environment Management Divison (SEM) of Bombay Regional Business Centre (BRBC) had carried out a safety audit of offshore platform and rigs and found certain shortcomings like non-completion of fire water-pumps, mainly on unmanned well platforms, defective safety system in some wells, need for repair of some life boats. Following the audit, corrective action was taken by BRBC. As a result, defective pumps and life boats and safety system have been checked and their number reduced. In order to monitor safety measures, a four-tier safety check and inspection of platforms and rigs by senior officers has been instituted and measures to increase safety awareness among employees have been initiated.